

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: 64TH ECOSOC--ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE ON CRIME

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

REF: STATE 086311, STATE 081116, STATE 053138, USUN 349

1. THE QUESTION OF ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL IS BECOMING A PROBLEM ISSUE AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENT ON THE POINTS RAISED BELOW.

2. THE DEPT WILL RECALL THAT THE 32D GA APPROVED RESOLUTION 32/60 CALLING FOR ELECTION BY ECOSOC OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR A TERM OF 4 YEARS, WITH HALF THE MEMBERSHIP BEING ELECTED EVERY 2 YEARS ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. THE 15 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPOINTED BY ECOSOC ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SYG. THE 4-YEAR TERMS OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS, WHICH INCLUDES THE US, EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1978.

3. ONE ISSUE BEING DEBATED IS WHETHER THE CURRENT MEMBERS

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SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE TERM EXPIRES IN DECEMBER 1978 OR WHETHER THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. THE ECOSOC SECRETARIAT IS PROMOTING THE VIEW THAT THE NEW MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. THIS POINT IS NOT COVERED IN RESOLUTION 32/60 AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN GROUP BELIEVE THE SECRETARIAT'S INTERPRETATION IS INCORRECT AND CONTRARY TO

PRECEDENT AND FURTHERMORE NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRALIA HAS ASKED OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND SEEKS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION THAT THE MEMBERS SHOULD CONTINUE THEIR TERMS UNTIL DECEMBER 1978. THE USSR HAS BEEN SEEKING FOR SOME TIME TO INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND TO RESTRAIN ITS ACTIVITIES. THE AUSTRALIANS POINTED OUT THAT A POSSIBLE COMPLETE CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP AT THIS POINT WITHOUT TIME FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATION BY THE NEW MEMBERS WOULD THROW THE COMMITTEE INTO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DISORDER AND MAKE IT MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MANIPULATION. PREPARATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY FOR A 1980 CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN AUSTRALIA.

4. THE WESTERN GROUP HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF AN EXCESS OF CANDIDATES AT THE PRESENT TIME. THERE ARE 5 WESTERN SEATS CURRENTLY HELD BY NORWAY, ITALY, UK, FRANCE AND THE US AND 12 FIRM CANDIDATES. UNLESS THE LIST OF CANDIDATES IS NARROWED DOWN, WE WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN THE ELECTIONS. THE CANDIDATES ARE THE FOLLOWING: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, US, FRANCE, FRG, GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS, UK AND TURKEY. AUSTRIA IS NOT A FIRM CANDIDATE BUT HAS INDICATED ITS INTEREST. THE SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARIAT WISHES TO HOLD THE ELECTIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF ECOSOC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH MEANS WE WILL HAVE A VERY LIMITED TIME FOR CAMPAIGNING.

5. THE DELEGATE OF AUSTRALIA SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION: THE WESTERN GROUP SHOULD SEEK TO DEFER THE ELECTIONS UNTIL THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF ECOSOC IN JANUARY, 1979 IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE TERMS OF OFFICE AND FURTHER TO GIVE REGIONAL GROUPS MORE TIME TO SORT OUT THEIR CANDIDATES. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO DEFER THE ELECTION, THEN WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE RETIRING MEMBERS SHOULD FINISH OUT THEIR TERM OF OFFICE.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENT ASAP ON THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS. LEONARD

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